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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

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SUBJECT SNB Personnel in Thuringia

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

SOURCE

1. The SNB (Soviet News Bureau) group in Erfurt does no press work but is assigned to survey the trend of public opinion on political, cultural, and economic measures taken by the Russian occupation forces. All reporters appear to have been instructed to present accurate reports of speeches and discussions including the text, if possible.
2. SNB members receive ration card 2; the chiefs and individuals given special functions hold ration card 1. In addition, the chief at Weimar receives food parcels and materials from the Russians.
3. Personnel at Erfurt include the following:
 - a. Schumann, chief; a former Luftwaffe officer; about 37; very unscrupulous; badly-off financially; a ladies' man.
 - b. Dau, Schumann's deputy; about 32; manager of the Thüringer Bild-Pressedienst; in charge of LDP reporting.
 - c. Gramschke, member of CDU and in charge of reports on that party; about 45; former NSDAP member.
 - d. Roetger, 24, in charge of the cultural section.
 - e. Fräulein Michels, 30, SED member; in charge of reports on the Demokratische Frauenbund and town council.
 - f. Duns, SED member, 32; former chief of Kulturbund at Weimar and director of the Weimar radio; also manager of Theater des Tanzes at Erfurt; very influential in SNB; very clever and writes brutal reports; uses subterfuge to get people to talk.
 - g. Ursula Hering, 21, not affiliated with a party; in charge of FDJ matters; a good, harmless girl who often warns people of danger from political indiscretions.
 - h. Arendt, 38, member of SED; in charge of the economic section; formerly ADN chief in Erfurt but removed for making a critical speech at a public meeting; claims to have represented DNB in Hungary.

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4. The SNB at Erfurt is under the supervision of the Weimar SNB, which controls all of Thuringia. Some Weimar SNB personnel are:

- a. Jahn, 30, member of SED, chief of the office; a loyal Communist.
- b. Erhard Reeh, Jahn's deputy; 30; CDU member; moved to ADM in the spring of 1947; honest but without principles.

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~~SECRET~~ Comment: In August 1947, Arendt, fm, was described as being a Russian intelligence agent in the German Section of the SNB in Berlin. He was a fanatical Communist who had deserted to the Russians during the war and had remained in Russia; he formerly wrote for the SNB Education Section. It is not certain that this Arendt is identical with the Arendt of this report. Two other Arendts, Heinz and Horst, are employed by the German Institute for Social and Economic Problems in Berlin as editor and chief editor respectively.

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